

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: OEXC,SCUL, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY PROTEST ON CARNEGIE HALL
DEMONSTRATION

REF: MOSCOW 1524

1. SOVIET EMBASSY CULTURAL COUNSELOR SAKOVICH CALLED ON
EUR/SOV DEP DIRECTOR (EXCHANGES) JANUARY 28, SAYING HE WAS
INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY DOBRYNIN, TO LODGE AN OFFICIAL
PROTEST CONCERNING THE JANUARY 27 INCIDENT AT CARNEGIE HALL
(REFTEL). SAKOVICH MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS AS
DID CHETVERIKOV ABOUT THE INCIDENT. HE ALSO MENTIONED
ALLEGED MINCULT CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE INCIDENTS AGAINST
FORTHCOMING DON COSSACK ENSEMBLE TOUR. IN CONNECTION WITH
MOSCOW CIRCUS, SAKOVICH HANDED OVER TWO LEAFLETS, WHICH
HE SAID JEWISH AND UKRAINIAN GROUPS WERE DISTRIBUTING
URGING LONG ISLANDERS TO ATTEND "STREET CIRCUS" RATHER

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THAN FEBRUARY 4 PERFORMANCE OF MOSCOW CIRCUS AT NASSAU
COLISEUM ON LONG ISLAND. "STREET CIRCUS," TO BE HELD OUT-

SIDE COLISEUM, WOULD FOCUS ATTENTION ON POLITICAL INJUSTICE IN USSR. IN EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATIONS, SAKOVICH NOTED THAT UKRAINIANS WERE PARTICULARLY NOTED FOR THEIR VIOLENCE.

2. ON FEBRUARY 2, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A FORMAL PROTEST

NOTE ON THE SEVIDOV INCIDENT FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY ALONG THE SAME LINES OF SAKOVICH'S ORAL PROTEST. HOWEVER, IN NEITHER THE NOTE NOR IN SAKOVICH'S PRESENTATION WAS THERE ANY REFERENCE TO US OBLIGATIONS UNDER CSCE AGREEMENT.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE SEVIDOV INCIDENT, NOTING IT WAS THE FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF IT. HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT WE DEPLORED SUCH INCIDENTS AND WOULD PROMPTLY LOOK INTO IT.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH HUOK CONCERTS OFFICIALS, WHO WERE SPONSORS FOR SEVIDOV, WE ASCERTAINED THAT THE POLICE WERE CALLED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT BEGAN AND THAT THREE PEOPLE WERE REMOVED FROM THE HALL. BOTH CARNEGIE HALL AND HUOK CONCERTS OFFICIALS WERE PREPARED TO PRESS CHARGES, AND HUOK CONCERTS HAS DONE SO. A HEARING IS SET FOR FEBRUARY 6 OR 9, AND THE THREE PEOPLE APPREHENDED HAVE BEEN RELEASED ON BOND.

5. EUR/SOV DEP DIR (EXCHANGES) INFORMED SAKOVICH OF THE FOREGOING ON FEBRUARY 3, ADDING THAT DEPT WOULD BE RESPONDING TO THE EMBASSY'S PROTEST NOTE. HE NOTED THAT DEPT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE FEBRUARY 4 MOSCOW CIRCUS PERFORMANCE AND THE UPCOMING DON COSSACK ENSEMBLE TOUR FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING TO ENSURE THAT PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT. HE NOTED ALSO THAT THE DON COSSACK ENSEMBLE AND THE MOSCOW CIRCUS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS OFFICIAL GUESTS OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER P.L. 92-539.

6. IN RESPONSE TO CHETVERIKOV, THE EMBASSY MAY WISH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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EXPRESS REGRET OVER THE SEVIDOV INCIDENT, NOTE THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY CONCERNING THIS MATTER, AND THAT IT IS THE AMEMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEPT WILL BE RESPONDING TO THE SOV EMBASSY'S PROTEST NOTE. INGERSOLL

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